

Frequently Asked Questions

Many families have questions regarding their child's kindergarten experience. We would like to take the time to answer some of the most frequently asked questions.

WHEN WILL I FIND OUT WHO MY CHILD'S TEACHER IS?

A letter will be sent home in August with the name of your child's kindergarten teacher. Your child's teacher will then call you to schedule a home visit and meet you before school starts.

IS IT SAFE FOR MY KINDERGARTNER TO RIDE THE BUS?

Many kindergartners enjoy the responsibility of riding the bus. They enjoy their new found independence and often times, they make new friends when they ride the bus to and/or from school. Teachers will make your child a bus tag that your child **MUST** wear all year. The bus tag ensures that the bus driver knows your child's stop. You must complete the transportation form to sign up for bussing.

IF MY CHILD RIDES THE BUS, HOW WILL WE KNOW WHERE THEIR STOP IS AND WHAT TIME THE BUS COMES?

You will receive a letter in the mail in late August that informs you of the bus stop and times. We have a wonderful transportation department and the phone number for the bus garage is: (231) 924 4390.

HOW DO BREAKFAST AND LUNCH WORK?

Listed below is some helpful information as you enroll your new student into Fremont Public schools.

1. Breakfast and lunch are offered daily on full days and breakfast only on half days.
2. Breakfast is free for all students and lunch is \$2.25. Students who qualify for free or reduced priced meals will not be charged for their lunch. FPS has waived the \$.40 for reduced priced meals.
3. It is extremely important that you fill out a free/reduced priced meals form prior to the new school year starting to see if you qualify. The more students we have qualify for free and reduced lunch, the more money we get for our title and at-risk programs.
4. You may apply for free or reduced priced meals after the new forms are released on July 1st, in one of the following ways:
 - Download, print and fill out a paper form www.fremont.net under the Nutrition Services-Food Service link.
 - Pick up a form in person from a school office.
 - Electronic application through the FPS website via the Nutrition Services-Food Service link. This is probably the fastest option.
5. If your new student has older siblings in the Fremont Public School system who qualified the year before please make sure you fill out a new application for all your students **before school** starts. Kindergarten students cannot be added to the prior year's form and therefore will be

considered a full pay student until a new form is received. Any charges accrued as well will be the responsibility of the parent to pay.

5. Please call or email Director of Nutrition Services John R. Rosenberg with any questions at 231-924-8160 or rosenberg@fremont.net.

Students may bring a lunch from home to eat if they choose. Many students enjoy having hot lunch at school especially after they see their new friends eating hot lunch.

We do not refrigerate lunches brought from home.

WHAT TIME DOES SCHOOL BEGIN AND END?

The first bell rings at 7:50am, instruction begins each day at 7:55 a.m. and ends at 2:55 p.m.

IF I WOULD LIKE MY CHILD TO ATTEND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM, HOW DO I SIGN UP AND HOW WILL THEY GET THERE FROM THEIR CLASSROOM?

If you would like your student to participate in our after-school program, you must fill out an application which is available at open house and after open house, it will also be available at the Pathfinder Office during the school year. Staff will help with transition from classroom to afterschool program and will ensure that your student arrives to our after-school program safely.

HOW OFTEN DO THE KINDERGARTNERS HAVE SPECIALIST CLASSES AND WHAT ARE THEY?

The specialist classes offered at Pathfinder Elementary are Art, Technology, Physical Education (Gym), and Music. Although the schedule is adapted each year, generally your student will attend each of the specialist classes once or twice per week.

WILL THEY HAVE A FREE CHOICE TIME DURING THE DAY?

At Pathfinder we have a directed learning component to our kindergarten classrooms, relax, and read time during our day especially at the beginning of the year. We read stories together and independently and enjoy this quiet times in our busy day. Children do not have nap time at school, but are given the opportunity to choose their own activities for a scheduled amount of time.

HOW DOES SNACK WORK?

All classrooms at Pathfinder have snack every day. Teachers will let you know if they would like individual snacks sent in or if families should send in at least one group snack (enough to share with the class of 18-23 learners) each month. Examples would be fruit, cereal, pretzels, carrots, apples, crackers, etc. We also appreciate donations of napkins, and cups.

Please keep in mind that at the beginning of the year it is common for kids to come home feeling hungry as their bodies adjust to their new schedule. Do not fret! They quickly adjust to their early lunch time and snack routine.

WILL MY CHILD LEARN TO READ IN KINDERGARTEN?

We foster each child's natural desire to learn. All kindergartners are immersed in literacy rich environments and are provided endless opportunities to develop their literacy skills. We want each child to leave kindergarten with appropriate literacy foundations that will make them successful in the years to come. Yes, some children come into kindergarten ready to read or reading already, while others are developing their skills.

Literacy activities in kindergarten are always multi-level and our classrooms are set up with many open-ended activities to challenge each learner at their level. The beauty is that each, and every, child will grow tremendously no matter what skills they come into school with.

Our goal is that all kindergarten students learn to read by the end of the year. It's part of the Core standards adopted by the state of Michigan.